**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (currently amended)A circuit simulation method for carrying out operational simulation of an electronic circuit through a network, said circuit simulation method comprising the steps of:

entering, from a design engineering party of said electronic circuit into a first information processing apparatus, circuit data indicating characteristics of said electronic circuit;

calculating at said first information processing apparatus at least one of an impedence and a propagation velocity for said entered circuit data;

sending, from ~~a~~said first information processing apparatus connected with said network to a second information processing apparatus connected with said network, said calculated, circuit data ~~indicating characteristics of said electronic circuit~~ through said network;

receiving said circuit data at a second information processing apparatus ~~connected with said network~~, said second information processing apparatus being so arranged that circuit models describing electronic circuit operations are stored therein to enable operational simulation, said circuit models being stored in a storage ~~accessible based on predefined authorization~~;

carrying out operational simulation of said electronic circuit at said second information processing apparatus using said circuit models in said storage and said received circuit data; and

sending results of said operational simulation from said second information processing apparatus through said network without sending said circuit models.

2. (original) A circuit simulation method as claimed in claim 1,

wherein, at said step of sending results of said operational simulation, said results of said operational simulation are sent to said first information processing apparatus from said second information processing apparatus through said network.

3. (previously presented) A circuit simulation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said circuit models includes device models, each device model indicating operations of a device constituting a circuit.

4. (previously presented) A circuit simulation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein each of said device models includes transistor models, each transistor model indicating operations of a transistor constituting said circuit.

5. (currently amended)A circuit simulation apparatus for carrying out operational simulation of an electronic circuit through a network, said circuit simulation apparatus comprising:

means for receiving, from a first information processing apparatus connected with said network, circuit data indicating characteristics of said electronic circuit through said network;

means for storing circuit models describing electronic circuit operations~~, the stored circuit models being accessible based on predefined authorization~~;

means for carrying out operational simulation of said electronic circuit using said circuit models in said storage and said received circuit data; and

means for sending results of said operational simulation through said network without sending said circuit models;

wherein said first information processing apparatus, into which is entered circuit data from a design engineering party of said electronic circuit, calculates at least one of an impedence and a propagation velocity for said entered circuit data, and sends to said second information processing apparatus said calculated circuit data through said network.

6. (original) A circuit simulation apparatus as claimed in claim 5,

wherein said means for sending results of said operational simulation sends said results of said operational simulation to said first information processing apparatus through said network.

7. (previously presented) A circuit simulation apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein each of said circuit models includes device models, each device model indicating operations of a device constituting a circuit.

8. (previously presented) A circuit simulation apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein each of said device models includes transistor models, each transistor model indicating operations of a transistor constituting said circuit.

9. (currently amended)A computer program product storable on a storage medium for carrying out operational simulation of an electronic circuit through a network in a circuit simulation system where said computer program product is run on a computer in which circuit models describing electronic circuit operations are stored, said computer program product comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a first information processing apparatus connected with said network, circuit data indicating characteristics of an electronic circuit through said network,

wherein said circuit models are stored in a storage and are accessible based on predefined authorization;

carrying out operational simulation of said electronic circuit using said circuit models and said circuit data; ~~and~~

sending results of said operational simulation through said network, and

wherein said first information processing apparatus, into which is entered circuit data from a design engineering party of said electronic circuit, calculates at least one of an impedence and a propagation velocity for said entered circuit data, and sends to said second information processing apparatus said calculated circuit data through said network.

10. (original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein, at said step of sending results of said operational simulation, said results of said operational simulation are sent to said first information processing apparatus from said second information processing apparatus through said network.

11. (previously presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein each of said circuit models includes device models, each device model indicating operations of a device constituting a circuit.

12. (previously presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 11, wherein each of said device models includes transistor models, each transistor model indicating operations of a transistor constituting said circuit.

13. (currently amended)A circuit simulation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said storage means is divided into a plurality of regions.

14. (currently amended)A circuit simulation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said storage means is divided into a plurality of regions and the person who has authority of each region ~~can access~~accesses the corresponding region.

15. (currently amended)A circuit simulation method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said storage means is divided into three regions, a first and second region is

~~capable of being~~ accessed by a server manager, and a third region is ~~capable of being~~ accessed by a device supplier.

16. (currently amended)A circuit simulation method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first region is the region for holding mounting rules, the second region is the region for holding simulation circuit connection models, and the third region is the region for holding device transistor models and/or device models.

17. (currently amended)A circuit simulation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a user-specific simulation model data is stored in said storage means.

18. (currently amended)A circuit simulation method as claimed in claim 15, wherein a user-specific simulation model data is stored in said third region in said storage means.

19. (currently amended)A circuit simulation method as claimed in claim 17, wherein a user-specific simulation model data is stored in said third region in said storage means.

20. (currently amended)A circuit simulation method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said third region is capable of being accessed by a user who supply the user-specific simulation model data.

21. (currently amended)A circuit simulation apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said means for storing is divided into a plurality of regions.

22. (currently amended)A circuit simulation apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said means for storing is divided into a plurality of region and the person who has authority of each region ~~can access~~accesses the corresponding region.

23. (currently amended)A circuit simulation apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said means for storing is divided into three regions, a first and second region is ~~capable of being~~ accessed by a server manager, and a third region is ~~capable of being~~ accessed by a device supplier.

24. (currently amended)A circuit simulation apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein the first region is the region for holding mounting rules, the second region is the region for holding simulation circuit connection models, and the third region is the region for holding device transistor models and/or device models.

25. (previously presented) A circuit simulation apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein a user-specific simulation model data is stored in said means for storing.

26. (previously presented) A circuit simulation apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein a user-specific simulation model data is stored in said third region in said means for storing.

27. (previously presented) A circuit simulation apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein a user-specific simulation model data is stored in said third region in said means for storing.

28. (currently amended)A circuit simulation apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said third region is ~~capable of being~~ accessed by a user who supply the user-specific simulation model data.

29. (currently amended)A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein said storage means is divided into a plurality of regions.

30. (currently amended)A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein said storage means is divided into a plurality of regions and the person who has authority of each region ~~can access~~accesses the corresponding region.

31. (currently amended)A computer program product as claimed in claim 29, wherein said storage means is divided into three regions, a first and second region is ~~capable of being~~ accessed by a server manager, and a third region is ~~capable of being~~ accessed by a device supplier.

32. (currently amended)A computer program product as claimed in claim 31, wherein the first region is the region for holding mounting rules, the second region is the region for holding simulation circuit connection models, and the third region is the region for holding device transistor models and/or device models.

33. (currently amended)A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein

a user-specific simulation model data is stored in said storage means.

34. (currently amended)A computer program product as claimed in claim 29, wherein a user-specific simulation model data is stored in said third region in said storage means.

35. (currently amended)A computer program product as claimed in claim 31, wherein a user-specific simulation model data is stored in said third region in said storage means.

36. (currently amended)A computer program product as claimed in claim 34, wherein said third region is ~~capable of being~~ accessed by a user who ~~supply~~ supplies the user-specific simulation model data.